

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. with Norman Winkler, Chairman, Warren Norris, Gerald Mohr, Janet Kile, Bruce Levi, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, Leigh Morning, Attorney, and Deborah Adams, Auditor in attendance.

Chairman, Norman Winkler called the meeting to order. Commissioner Ken Masters made note that Commissioner Tom Barnes serves on the ambulance committee. Minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Gerald Mohr, seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

### **RUSH MEMORIAL AMBULANCE**

Brad Smith, CEO of Rush Memorial Hospital, provided the council with the Rush Memorial Hospital pay ranges for ambulance services department positions as Norman Winkler requested during the February meeting. Smith informed the council that these ranges are within the Indiana Hospital Association's guidelines.

### **HEALTH**

Dr. Davis Ellis, Health Officer, updated the council regarding moving the current food inspectors' position over into the full-time food inspector's position. The individual will have received their school certification by this time. Dr. Ellis did report that Reno Gosser's contract will expire March 31, 2011.

Jerry Kent did share his concerns that the county is looking at possibly fifteen to twenty percent cuts in the 2012 budget. Kent was concerned that maybe we are creating something that we do not want to deal with later.

Deborah Adams did explain when questioned regarding an employee going from part-time to full-time. Adams gave clarification as defined within the salary ordinance. Adams also advised Dr. Ellis to advertise the food inspector position. Adams explained that Rush County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Adams noted that the position could easily be posted on the county website and the courthouse bulletin board.

Dr. Ellis reviewed the accreditation level of the Health Department with the Council. Warren Norris made the motion to approve the additional appropriation for \$1,200.00 (107-1000-3-11) Health Maint. Tobacco – Mileage. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried

### **ASSESSOR**

Mary Ann Bridges, Assessor, informed the council that someone with a Level II Assessors Certification must be appointed by the council to the PTBOA board. Bridges recommended Nick White who is a deputy within the Assessors office and also holds a level II

certification. Bruce Levi made the motion to appoint Nick White. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bridges reported that the current farmlands project layer has approximately 2800 parcels that are off by more than one acre. Bridges explained that when the farmlands software was installed there by Sidwell needed to be a cleanup of these parcels. During this period the overlay dot method for splits was continued. Bridges reported that to receive the upgrade version of farms, processing and clean up the cost for Sidwell to do this would be \$4,982.63

It was also explained that currently with a new staff, no one within in the assessor's office is trained on the farmlands software. Deborah Adams reported that Bridges encouraged her to talk to Joyce West of Sidwell regarding training. Adams explained that onsite training of three people would cost \$4,928.00 Adams explained that the maintenance layer will be located in the Assessor's office while the GIS software system located in the Auditor's office will have a reader capability only.

Bridges asked for funding of the clean up of the estimated 2800 farmland parcels. The council questioned her regarding the training and continued update of new parcel splits. Bridges stressed that the clean-up and updating of the estimated 2800 parcels are more important. Bridges explained that she would for now just continue with the overlay dot method for new splits and did not plan to make any mistakes. Bridges asked that the council consider later in the year giving funding to training if monies are available.

Deborah Adams did mention that there are monies appropriated in Cum Cap Dev for GIS. Gerald Mohr made the motion to pay for the clean up and updating of the 2800 farmland parcels from Cum Cap Dev and to research training later in the year. Jerry Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bridges updated the council regarding the BBR Vision Apartment complex appeal. Bridges reported that the appeal is going before the tax board April 28, 2011. Bridges explained that Nexus feels that it is imperative that an appraisal should be done on the BBR Vision apartment complex. Bridges explained that the cost will be \$37,000.00 + \$1,000.00 to complete.

The council encourages Bridges to talk to both the City of Rushville and the Rushville School Corp. to share the expense of the appraisal as the final results will affect them. Bridges also reported that Nexus encouraged an audit of the personal property forms. The council asked Bridges to find more information of Nexus cost and report back.

Gerald Mohr made the motion to approve \$70,394.24 additional appropriation in the Reassessment Fund. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried. The appropriation breakdown is:

99-1000-1-2	Extra Help	\$25,000.00
99-1000-1-3	Social Security	\$ 2,848.00

99-1000-2-1	Supplies	\$ 500.00
99-1000-3-2	Mileage	\$ 2,500.00
99-1000-3-4	Contractual	\$39,394.24

## **SHERIFF**

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported thirty-six (36) inmates incarcerated in the Rush County jail. Sherwood reported that both judges have been willing to work with him when the prison population has increased to high levels.

Sherwood reported that \$11,093.00 of insurance was receipted back into the appropriation for the sheriff vehicle. Sherwood explained that he would like to leave the money in the appropriation until the year end to use to purchase a vehicle.

Sherwood discussed the sheriff sale fee offsetting auto sales. Sherwood noted that Decatur County has funds ear marked through the general fund.

Sherwood reported that the Verizon IN Digital installation went well.

Sherwood is very impressed with the WTH E-911 software detail.

Merit deputy Randy Chandler will retire June 30, 2011. Sherwood spoke on behalf of the Merit Board asking the council if there is a hiring freeze in force. Sherwood asked for the councils guidance pointing out there was not a significant savings. Sherwood reported when asked that there are currently ten (10) merit deputies in addition to the sheriff. Jerry Kent shared his thought that Sherwood should get things in place and wait until after the budget hearings in September. The council shared that with the over spending of EDIT due to the ambulance, spending money now makes that cut worse later.

Carole Yeend asked the council, as a mother of a deputy, to not cut Public Safety. Yeend asked the council to cut other services first.

The council discussed sending a memo to department heads to look at further ways to cut their budgets. Deborah Adams encouraged each council member to individually visit each department and to spend a day understanding the responsibilities of the various offices. Adams explained that she felt this would only assist the council with hard decisions down the road.

Gerald Mohr made the motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$7,500.00 from the Firearms Training Supplies fund 24-1000-2-1 Sherwood explained that the money received in this fund is generated by gun permits. May 1, 2011 there will be a 15% increase in gun ammo.

Sherwood updated the council of the Rush County Police Retirement Plan. Sherwood reported that the anticipate return is 7% and that the actual net return for the year ending December 31, 2010 was 8.98%

Brad Smith, of Rush Memorial Hospital, spoke up that the hospital could possibly offer an additional discount as a solution for inmate health care bills. Smith also asked the sheriff and council to consider the possibility of contracting security measures along with the City of Rushville for the Hospital grounds.

Sherwood informed the council that the commissary report would be submitted during the April meeting. Sherwood reported that he had to release the previous person.

## **HIGHWAY**

Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, submitted the monthly February highway report for the council to review.

Jerry Kent made the motion to approve the \$225,000.00 additional appropriation 2-203-4-5 for the ROW for Phase III of the Carthage Pike. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Norman Winkler questioned Sitton what the revenue from the new wheel tax would generate. Sitton estimated that it would generate approximately \$100,000.00

## **AUDITOR**

Deborah Adams, Auditor, reported that the 2010 pay 2011 taxes have been calculated.

Adams reported that the State Board of Accounts is in the process of completing the 2010 audit for the county.

Adams reported that she along with two deputies will be attending a regional auditors meeting in Kokomo. Adams explained that the DLGF (Department Local Government Finance) is implementing an online budget software program for counties to utilize for the 2012 budget year. The program called "Gateway" will allow an upload from vendors. Adams also explained that the SBOA (State Board of Accounts) is implementing a new state wide uniform chart of accounts for counties for the 2012 calendar. Adams explained that for each county and vendor the cross-walk and conversion will be different and detailed.

Adams reported on the commissioner's certificate sale scheduled for March 25, 2011 through April 4, 2011. Adams noted that there are now twenty-seven properties listed.

Adams reported that the PERF rate for 2012 will be 8 ½%. Adams noted that the current 2011 PERF rate is 7%

Adams reported that according to her research on the reassessment budget \$163,053.76 will still need to be cut from the 2011 general fund budget. Adams noted that the county would also need to take into consideration the 2015 reassessment levy that will not be raised this year. After further discussion a work day was set for March 21, 2011 at 9:00 am to review possible

budget cuts. Janet Kile and Kevin Spilman both volunteered to serve and meet with the auditor. Their recommendations will be submitted to the council members prior to the April council meeting.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Gerald Mohr. Bruce Levi seconded the motion, motion carried.

<u>/s/Norman Winkler</u>	<u>/s/Warren Norris</u>	<u>/s/Gerald Mohr</u>
Norman Winkler, Chairman	Warren Norris	Gerald Mohr

<u>/s/Janet Kile</u>	<u>/s/Bruce Levi</u>	<u>/s/Kevin Spilman</u>
Janet Kile	Bruce Levi	Kevin Spilman

<u>/s/Jerry Kent</u>
Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

<u>/s/Deborah C. Adams</u>
Deborah C. Adams, Auditor